



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 November 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The General Accounting Office has issued GAO-04-285T: Aviation Security: Efforts to Measure Effectiveness and Strengthen Security Programs (Testimony) and GAO-04-242: Aviation Security: Federal Air Marshal Service Is Addressing Challenges of Its Expanded Mission and Workforce, but Additional Actions Needed (Report). (See item [9](#))
- The Associate Press reports that Southern Nevada Water Authority board will issue a drought alert because of falling water levels at Lake Mead, the reservoir for most of the region's drinking water, triggering more water restrictions. (See item [16](#))
- U.S. Department of State has issued a Worldwide Caution stating that there are increasing indications that al Qaeda is preparing to strike U.S. interests abroad or within the U.S. (See item [28](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *November 24, Reuters* — Hydrocracker at Louisiana refinery down. Murphy Oil Corp. said on Monday, November 24, its hydrocracker at its 110,000 barrels per day (bpd) refinery in Meraux, LA, was down after a fire on Saturday, November 22. There was a fire in the hydrocracker on Saturday night, a company spokesperson said. **The repairs are**

expected to take a week, she added. A hydrocracker is a unit which is used to process high-octane gasolines, jet fuels and reformer changer stocks. The spokesperson said the unit's shutdown was probably a precautionary measure as a result of the fire in the hydrocracker. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/031124/energy_murphy_refinery_2.html

2. *November 24, Dow Jones Business News* — **ChevronTexaco Nigeria crude production remains shut in. ChevronTexaco Corp.'s Nigeria unit will keep production of 23,000 barrels a day of crude oil shut in until all affected facilities have been inspected, the company said Sunday, November 23. The production was shut in following an attack by ethnic militants on offshore platforms at Middleton, Pennington, North Apoi and Funiwa in Bayelsa state, which is in the eastern Niger Delta.** Production will be shut in "until we have been able to fully assess the condition of the impacted facilities and the circumstances are considered stable and safe for our employees and the environment," the company said. Ijaw militant youths invaded the facilities last week and took 18 workers hostage. The militants released four workers initially, and the remainder were rescued when the Nigerian military overpowered the kidnappers. The release of the hostages ended Saturday, November 22. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031124/0911000601_2.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

3. *November 21, Binghamton University* — **Photochemistry research.** While most chemists work with molecules in their ground or normal states, Alistair Lees has spent the past two decades working with "excited" molecules, a state attained when molecules absorb light, known as second chemistry. Excited state molecules generally emit light, give off heat, or break into fragments as they return to the ground state. Lees has synthesized entire new molecules, which do not fragment in their excited states. When cooled, his creations remain intact and display luminescence, giving him an unprecedented chance to study the second chemistry involved, an approach, which has opened the door to the development of several promising applications. **One application of Lees' work is likely to stem from the arena known as supramolecular chemistry. Lees is finding ways to insert luminescent compounds into the cavities of some large molecules. Because the luminescence of such molecules changes substantially in reaction to their environment, they make excellent sensors. Recently, Lees and his team found a compound that is a good sensor for cyanide. Others, he said, are sensitive to hydrocarbon vapors, which may help detect pollutants.** Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/11/031121071944.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *December 01, National Defense Magazine* — **Army sets up liaison office to assist in homeland security. The Army is setting up a "homeland security cell" to act as a liaison organization with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The goal is to give DHS easier access to Army programs and suppliers. In charge of this effort is the Army program**

executive office for combat support and combat service support (PEO CS&CSS), based in Warren, MI. PEO CS&CSS would be the "single point of focus for acquisition for the Army" in support of homeland security, said Army Colonel Philip R. Loschiavo, who currently runs that office. **Programs will be broken into three areas: transportation, infrastructure, and physical security.** Transportation equipment includes trucks, trailers, watercraft, cranes and rail stock. Infrastructure involves construction equipment, water and petroleum systems, auxiliary power generation and bunkers. Security systems would encompass perimeter and facility intrusion detection and denial equipment, customized Humvees and armored security vehicles. Source: <http://nationaldefense.ndia.org/article.cfm?Id=1284>

5. *November 24, Reuters* — **Bush signs defense bill. President Bush signed into law on Monday, November 24, a record \$401.3 billion defense spending bill that gives soldiers an average 4 percent raise.** The legislation, approved earlier this month by the U.S. Congress, clears the way for the Air Force to acquire 100 Boeing Co. refueling aircraft, expands veterans' benefits, and allows research on new types of nuclear weapons. It includes \$9.1 billion for ballistic missile defense.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/reuters20031124_196.html

6. *November 21, Navy NewsStand* — **Surface Strike Group ships to deploy from Norfolk. More than 1,000 Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyers USS Cole (DDG 67) and USS Gonzalez (DDG 66), and the destroyer USS Thorn (DD 988) will depart Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia on November 28 for a Mediterranean Sea deployment in support of the global war on terrorism.** As a Surface Strike Group (SSG), Cole, Gonzalez and Thorn will participate in regional exercises with allies, make diplomatic port calls and respond to any contingency including those associated with the ongoing war on terrorism. The SSG can operate independently or in conjunction with other maritime forces. It is designed to be a flexible group that will provide presence with a purpose and strike power to support joint and allied forces afloat and ashore.

Source: http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=10721

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *November 21, Computerworld* — **Online fraud concerns on rise as holiday season nears. The upcoming holiday shopping season promises to be a busy one not just for Internet retailers, but for opportunistic online fraudsters and identity thieves as well. As a result, Internet merchants — especially smaller ones — will need to make sure they have adequate fraud- and theft-detection processes in place before the rush begins, industry experts warned.** "I think the problem is going to be real bad," said Tom Mahoney, founder of Merchant911.Org, a 1,600-member forum in which merchants can share fraud-prevention information. "All the projections we're seeing are for a significant increase in online sales. Because of this rush, there will be less time for smaller merchants that do some or all of their own fraud screening, to do it well," Mahoney said. Expect to see an increase in the number of successful fraudulent transactions and lost dollars as a result, he said. Along with growth in sales has come a sharp spike in fraudulent transactions, said Trevor Healy, vice president of VeriSign payment services. **"What we are seeing is about 3% to 4% of a retailer's bottom**

line being consumed by fraud," Healy said.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/ebusiness/story/0,10801,87443,00.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation Sector

8. *November 24, Associated Press* — **Los Angeles officials worried shortage of screeners could delay Thanksgiving travelers. With about 500 fewer screeners than they would like, Los Angeles International Airport officials are advising holiday travelers to leave early and be prepared for a long wait.** "We are concerned enough that we are going to go back to what we haven't done since 9/11, and that is to tell people to get here two hours early for a domestic flight and three hours early for an international flight," said airport spokesperson Paul Haney. "It is clear that, without additional staff, we will face unacceptable service levels during the upcoming peak holiday period," Kim Day, interim executive director for the airport's operator, recently wrote to Michael Robinson, the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) assistant administrator of aviation operations. Day asked that the TSA authorize more screener overtime. The TSA in turn is asking the airport and airlines to increase staff at security checkpoints. **Los Angeles International has about 1,900 screeners but that is about 600 fewer than the maximum 2,405 positions it has been allocated by the federal government. A hiring freeze, attrition and a ban on overtime have been blamed for the shortage.**

Source: http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2003_1124/APN/311240586

9. *November 20, Government Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-285T: Aviation Security: Efforts to Measure Effectiveness and Strengthen Security Programs (Testimony).** Commercial aviation has been a long-standing target for terrorists. Since the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, substantial changes have been made to enhance security—including the creation of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the federalization of the passenger screener workforce. However, despite these changes, vulnerabilities in aviation security continue to exist. Accordingly, **GAO was asked to describe TSA's efforts to (1) measure the effectiveness of its aviation security initiatives, (2) strengthen its passenger screening program, and (3) address additional challenges in further enhancing aviation security. In prior reports and testimonies, GAO has made numerous recommendations to strengthen aviation security.** Also, GAO has ongoing reviews assessing many of the issues addressed in this testimony and will issue separate reports on these areas at a later date. Testimony:

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-285T>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04285thigh.pdf>

10. *November 19, Government Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-242: Aviation Security: Federal Air Marshal Service Is Addressing Challenges of Its Expanded Mission and Workforce, but Additional Actions Needed (Report).** To help strengthen aviation security after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Congress expanded the size and mission of the Federal Air Marshal Service (the Service) and located the Service within the newly created Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Between November 2001 and July 1, 2002, the Service grew from fewer than 50 air marshals to thousands, and its mission expanded to include the protection of domestic as well as international flights. In March 2003, the Service, with

TSA, merged into the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and in November 2003, it was transferred from TSA and merged into DHS's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). **GAO looked at operational and management control issues that emerged during the rapid expansion of the Service, specifically addressing its (1) background check procedures and training; (2) management information, policies, and procedures; and (3) challenges likely to result from its mergers into DHS and ICE. GAO is making recommendations designed to improve the Service's data on flight duty and information on separations.** DHS agreed with GAO's recommendations and expressed a commitment to continuous improvement as the Service moves forward. Report:

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-242>.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04242high.pdf>

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

11. *November 24, Minnesota Ag Connection* — **Soybean aphids cost farmers millions. This season's soybean aphid infestation cost Minnesota farmers about \$80 million and damaged nearly four million acres of crops**, according to preliminary estimates by the University of Minnesota. It's the first time growers statewide have been hit so hard by the pests. **Experts say the insect, which sucks nutrients out of plants, threatens to reshape the Minnesota's \$1.3 billion industry.** What sets the soybean aphid apart from other corn and soybean insects is its ability to rapidly reproduce itself asexually, populations typically double in two to three days. For years, soybeans have been a crop that has been consistently profitable and one with little risk. That's changed. **Aphids increase costs dramatically because of spraying, and even that's no guarantee against yield loss.** After the Minnesota's first major outbreak of aphids in 2001, there was a slight dip in the number of acres of soybeans. After this year's inundation, many expect an even more dramatic drop from the 7.4 million acres in 2003. Experts believe the fast-producing aphid came from Asia to the United States before 1999. It can be found in nearly every state surrounding the Great Lakes, continuing to spread farther out each year.

Source: <http://www.minnesotaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1026 &yr=2003>

12. *November 24, Reuters* — **Delay seen likely for U.S. meat-origin labels. U.S. lawmakers assembling a catch-all government spending bill have decided to delay for two years a law requiring country-of-origin labels on meat, pork and mutton, congressional aides said on Monday. Labeling is voluntary now and would become mandatory on September 30, 2004, under a law passed last year.** Three congressional staff workers said it appeared high-ranking lawmakers had decided on the two-year delay. The labeling delay probably would also cover seafood, one aide said, but not affect fresh produce and peanuts. Congress is trying to wrap up work on a \$284 billion catch-all bill that must be passed before the

Thanksgiving holiday to keep various federal agencies operating. Mandatory labeling could cost from \$580 million to \$3.9 billion a year according to government estimates.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2003-11-24T175704Z_01_N24316189_RTRIDST_0_FOOD-MEAT-LABEL-UPDATE-1.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

13. *November 24, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Salmonella in meat and poultry declines.** Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman Monday announced that the rate of Salmonella in raw meat and poultry dropped by 66 percent over the past six years and by 16 percent compared with 2002. Of the random samples collected and analyzed between January 1 and October 31, 2003 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), 3.6 percent tested positive for Salmonella, as compared with 4.29 percent in 2002; 5.03 percent in 2001; 5.31 percent in 2000; 7.26 percent in 1999; and 10.65 percent in 1998. **USDA recently announced data showing similar reductions in E. coli O157:H7 in ground beef and Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat meat and poultry products.** Earlier this year, USDA outlined a series of new, science-based initiatives to better understand, predict and prevent microbiological contamination of meat and poultry products. These steps include increased training of inspectors, expediting the approval of new technologies, creation of a risk assessment coordination team and conducting research on priority areas.
- Source: <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/11/0396.htm>

14. *November 23, New York Times* — **Food poisoning from fresh produce on the rise. In 2000, there were almost as many reported cases of food poisoning from produce as there were from beef, poultry, fish, and eggs combined, according to an advocacy group's compilation of government data.** Scientists say illnesses have risen sharply because people are eating more fresh produce and want it year-round, leading to an increase in imports from countries with less stringent sanitary standards. **When the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) tested 1,003 samples of fresh produce imported from 21 countries in 1999 and 2000, 4.4 percent were found to have harmful bacteria. Of 959 domestic samples, 1.3 percent tested positive.** In 2000, there were 3,981 illnesses reported from outbreaks linked to contaminated produce, while 4,025 people were made ill by contaminated beef, poultry, seafood, and eggs, according to figures compiled by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group that frequently criticizes the food industry. The group used statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments, along with news media reports verified by public health officials. Experts say the figures represent only a small percentage of the outbreaks. No records are kept for individual cases. **The CDC estimates that each year 5,000 people die and 76 million become ill from food poisoning, largely from unknown causes.**
- Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/23/national/23FOOD.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

15. *November 24, Associated Press* — **Florida drinking water to be tested. Health officials will test drinking water throughout the Pensacola Bay area, in Florida, for radium Monday amid allegations a local utility provided contaminated water for a decade. High levels of radium were recorded from 1996 to 2000 in tap water and wells that supply drinking water to Pensacola and Gulf Breeze.** Earlier this month, radium contamination was detected in the tap water of two Escambia County elementary schools. Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive element found in ground water throughout the United States, although the suspected source in this case is an underground plume of chemicals coming from a toxic waste site. The Escambia County Utilities Authority faces two lawsuits because of the radium levels. The city of Gulf Breeze filed a \$4 million lawsuit accusing the utility of supplying contaminated water from 1993 to 2003, and a proposed \$25 million class-action suit claims up to 10,000 residents are exposed to radium pollution that lingers in water pipes.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031123_1197.html

16. *November 23, Associated Press* — **Nevada drought alert. Southern Nevada will issue a drought alert because of falling water levels at Lake Mead, the reservoir for most of the region's drinking water, triggering more water restrictions.** The Southern Nevada Water Authority board voted unanimously Thursday to move the Las Vegas region from drought watch to drought alert beginning January 1. Among new water restrictions, washing cars at home will be banned, as will the use of outdoor misting systems during the summer. Grass will be prohibited on front lawns at new homes and limited to 50 percent of back and side lawns. Turf will be restricted on new commercial and multifamily developments. Ornamental water fountains larger than 25 square feet will be banned, except for those at resorts. They are now limited to 200 square feet. **Las Vegas depends almost exclusively on water from Lake Mead, the reservoir formed by Hoover Dam on the Colorado River. The lake has dropped to its lowest level since 1969.**

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1123_droughtalert23.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

17. *November 24, Associated Press* — **China to test SARS vaccine. Chinese researchers expect to begin human trials next month on an experimental Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) vaccine that injects the dead virus into medical subjects so their immune systems can recognize it and hopefully attack it, a government drug official said Monday.** "We cannot tell yet whether it will be successful in humans, but we can say it is effective in animals, especially monkeys," Yin Hongzhang, head of the biological product section of the State Food and Drug Administration said. The Chinese agency is looking for human volunteers to test the vaccine, Yin said, adding that it isn't clear how long initial trials will take. China has already produced about 1,400 shots of the vaccine, and another 20,000 will be packaged and inspected by quality control experts, the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily reported.

Source: http://www.sunspot.net/features/health/ats-ap_health10nov24.0.437167.story?coll=sns-health-headlines

18. *November 24, Reuters* — **Synthetic vaccine for children.** Cuban researchers have developed the first synthetic vaccine against a bacteria that causes pneumonia and meningitis, a breakthrough aimed at lowering the cost of immunizing children in poorer countries. The vaccine protects against haemophilus influenzae type b, a bacteria that causes upper respiratory infections. The disease is a leading cause of meningitis, an infection that can cause brain damage, deafness, or death. The vaccine has already been tested and put into production in Cuba. **This is the first vaccine for humans made with a chemically produced antigen, Cuba says. The available, conventional vaccine is made using a difficult and more costly process of growing antigens in a bacterial culture.** Poor nations will now have a less expensive alternative, said Vicente Verez, head of the University of Havana's Synthetic Antigens Laboratory. **The disease has been almost erased in the United States,** the U.S. Centers for Disease Control said. But it remains a problem in developing countries where the cost of the vaccine has been a barrier to widespread immunization. Clinical trials conducted in the Cuban province of Camaguey, first on adult volunteers, then on four-year-old children and finally on babies, showed a 99.7 percent success rate.
Source: <http://maconareaonline.com/news.asp?id=4846>

19. *November 23, Washington Post* — **High-tech health watch raises questions.** Traditionally, public health officials have relied on doctors and hospitals to alert them when a contagious disease is diagnosed. But that can take days. A case of anthrax might initially be misdiagnosed as a bad cough. Researchers in the 1990s began exploring whether dangerous patterns could be detected earlier. The idea was to compare data from emergency rooms, insurance records, or school attendance charts to historic baselines, looking for a spike in health problems that might signal an attack. **Researchers are hoping that high-tech health systems, known as syndromic surveillance, will detect the danger signals that point to a bioterrorism attack.** The federal government has ten systems in development. Many cities and states also have put a system in place. However, no one, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the scientists pioneering the research, knows whether the surveillance works. A number of skeptics are urging state and local governments to hold off until the merits of syndromic surveillance can be studied further. **The CDC is developing protocols to measure syndromic surveillance systems against traditional methods of tracking infectious diseases.**
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6729-2003Nov2 2.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

20. *November 24, The Washington Times* — **FBI taps counterterrorism chief.** FBI Agent Gary M. Bald, who played a significant role in the apprehension of convicted D.C. sniper John Allen Muhammad and suspect Lee Boyd Malvo as head of the bureau's Baltimore field office, has been chosen to head the FBI's counterterrorism division. As inspector-deputy assistant director, **Bald, a 26-year FBI veteran, will oversee operations in international and domestic terrorism and in terrorist financing.** The appointment to the bureau's third-highest antiterrorism post at FBI headquarters was announced last week by agency Director Robert S. Mueller III.
Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20031124-120308-3012 r.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

21. *November 23, Morgan County Citizen (GA)* — **ESF8 committee to train 'first responders' in case of disaster.** Due to nationwide standards issued by the Department of Homeland Security, **Morgan County, GA, is organizing a task force to assist citizens in case of a biological, nuclear or chemical attacks, natural disasters and epidemics.** The Morgan County ESF8 Committee is comprised of members from various agencies, including Morgan Memorial Hospital, the Department of Family and Children Services, and local law enforcement. The ESF8 Committee was formed to examine Morgan County's need for first responders and organize and train citizen volunteers. The committee's research found that **to immunize Morgan County's 15,000 residents within four days, 463 volunteers working 12 hour shifts would probably be necessary to complete the mass vaccination.** The ESF8 Committee hopes to recruit people from all disciplines, from teachers, to firefighters, high school students, nurses, pastors, and rescue workers.

Source: <http://morgancountycitizen.com/gbase/Expedite/Content?oid=oid%3A1099>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information and Telecommunications Sector

22. *November 24, Federal Computer Week* — **VA has new security program. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) started a proactive vulnerability management program to provide improved cybersecurity at more than 250 facilities nationwide.** The new strategy will provide more frequent security assessments, reducing risks and ensuring compliance with privacy regulations and internal security standards, officials said. Potential vulnerabilities can more easily be identified and reported to the VA's central incident response center for centralized management. In addition, the new service will allow individual facilities to quickly respond to security bulletins released by the response center.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1124/web-va-11-24-03.asp>

23. *November 24, ZDNet UK* — **Exchange flaw could open up user accounts.** Microsoft is investigating what may be a serious flaw in Exchange Server 2003, only a month after the software's launch as part of Office System 2003. **The bug appears to affect an Exchange component called Outlook Web Access (OWA), which allows users to access their in-boxes and folders via a Web browser.** Consumers logging into their Web-based mailbox sometimes find themselves accessing another user's account, with full privileges, according to Matthew Johnson, a network administrator who reported the bug earlier this month on the NTBugtraq security mailing list. **Microsoft has said it is investigating the issue and that the flaw appears to occur only when Kerberos authentication is disabled.** Kerberos is the method that Microsoft uses for authenticating requests for services. For the moment, the company is advising customers to keep Kerberos authentication enabled, as it is by default, and may issue a patch or more information when its investigation is complete.

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-7355_3-5111330.html?tag=nefd_top

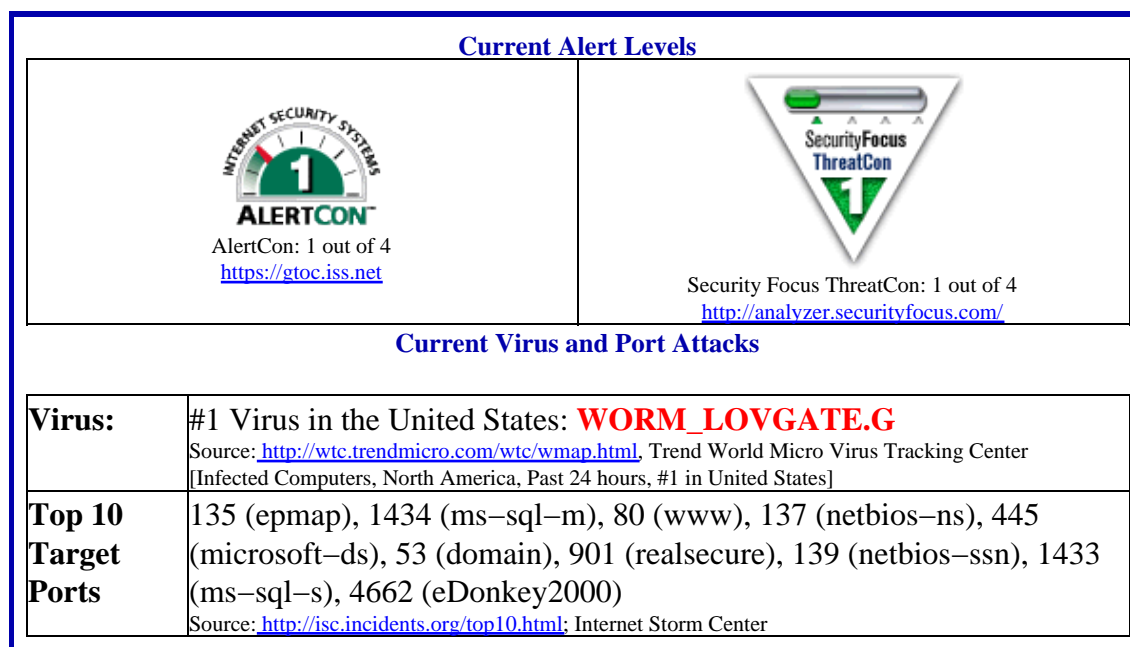
24. *November 24, CNET News.com* — **Opera update seals security holes.** A new version of Opera, released Friday, November 21, fixes two vulnerabilities in the Web browser. **The vulnerabilities, disclosed to the BugTraq security mailing list, allow rogue Web sites to take control of a victim's computer by exploiting weaknesses in the way the browser handles "skin" files, or configuration files that can change the look of a program.** An advisory, written by Jouko Pynnonen of Finland, describes scenarios that would allow an attacker to seize control of systems running Opera, all of which require some degree of user interaction to be successfully exploited. "In order to be exploited, these vulnerabilities require the victim to visit a Web page created by a malicious user," he wrote. Though Pynnonen says one vulnerability affects Windows systems only, the second vulnerability, a buffer overflow, will allow an attacker to take control of Linux-based systems. "The directory traversal problem doesn't exist on Linux...Other versions weren't tested," the advisory read, noting also that "the buffer overflow can be produced on Linux, too."

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-1032_3-5110845.html?tag=nefd_top

25. *November 20, Associated Press* — **Kansas City man indicted for computer hacking.** A man from Kansas City, MO, was indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly hacking into Aventis Pharmaceuticals computers. Thomas S. Millot was charged in a single-count indictment of unauthorized computer intrusion. Millot was employed as an information technology security officer at Aventis' office in Kansas City until October 2000. The federal indictment alleges that **Millot gained unauthorized access to the Aventis computer network on nine separate occasions between December 16, 2000, and August 26, 2002, including five times after Millot left the company.** The indictment also accuses Millot of deleting an Aventis associate's account from the computer network.

Source: http://newtribune.com/stories/112003/sta_1120030011.asp

Internet Alert Dashboard



General Sector

26. *November 24, Associated Press* — **U.S. releases 20 Guantanamo prisoners.** The U.S. government released 20 more prisoners from its high-security jail for terrorist suspects in Cuba, the Pentagon said Monday. **After they were returned Friday to their home countries, the U.S. military Sunday brought some 20 new suspects to the facility from an undisclosed location, officials said.** The Sunday transfer means the prison on the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba still holds some 660 people suspected of taking part in terrorist activity. **Senior officials at the Defense Department, in consultation with other U.S. government officials, determined that the 20 freed "either no longer posed a threat to U.S. security or no longer required detention," said a the Pentagon statement.** So far 88 people have been transferred out of Guantanamo, 84 to be released in their countries and four transferred into Saudi Arabian prisons for continued detention.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=542&ncid=718&e=8&u=/ap/20031124/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/guantanamo_prisoners

27. *November 24, Associated Press* — **Two sentenced for trying to join Taliban.** Two American Muslims who tried to join the Taliban were sentenced to 18 years in prison Monday, November 24. **Patrice Lumumba Ford, 32, and Jeffrey Leon Battle, 33, had pleaded guilty in October to conspiracy to levy war against the United States. Both said that in trying to reach Afghanistan, they were fulfilling their Islamic duty to defend fellow Muslims.** Ford was once an intern at Portland's City Hall. Battle and Ford were among six people accused of conspiring to travel to Afghanistan in 2001 and fight U.S. troops after the September 11 terrorist attacks. A seventh was charged with providing financial support.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-11-24-taliban-trial_x.htm

28. *November 21, U.S. Department of State* — **Worldwide Caution.** There are increasing indications that al Qaeda is preparing to strike U.S. interests abroad. Al Qaeda and its associated organizations have struck in the Middle East in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and in Europe in Istanbul, Turkey. **The State Department expects al Qaeda will strive for new attacks designed to be more devastating than the September 11 attack, possibly involving nonconventional weapons such as chemical or biological agents. The Department also cannot rule out that al Qaeda will attempt a second catastrophic attack within the U.S.** Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These may also involve commercial aircraft and maritime interests, and threats to include conventional weapons, such as explosive devices. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets.

Source: <http://travel.state.gov/aq/wwc1.html>

29. *November 21, Washington Post* — **Al Qaeda franchises brand of violence to groups across world.** Leaders of the al Qaeda terrorist network have franchised their organization's brand of synchronized, devastating violence to homegrown terrorist groups across the world, posing a formidable new challenge to counterterrorism forces. The smaller organizations, most of whose leaders were trained in al Qaeda camps in Afghanistan, have fanned out, imbued with radical ideology and the means to create or revitalize local terrorist groups. With most of its senior

leadership killed or captured and its financial structure under increasing scrutiny, Osama bin Laden's network, now run largely by midlevel operatives, relies increasingly on these groups to carry out the jihad, or holy war, against the United States and its allies. **Approximately 20,000 people from 47 countries passed through the camps in Afghanistan from the mid-1990s until the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001**, officials estimate. The camps served as sites to train and indoctrinate fighters, keys to building the future network as they returned to their homelands.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1934-2003Nov2 0.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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